

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00851 100811Z

21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SCI-06 COME-00 EB-11

DRC-01 /121 W

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R 100748Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1130

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0851

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, HU

SUBJ: KADAR'S VIEWS ON US RELATIONS

1. AT APRIL 4 GOH MAJOR RECEPTION FOR PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND DIPLOMATS, KADAR ENGAGED JAPANESE AND FRG AMBASSADORS AND MY SELF SEPARATELY IN SHORT CONVERSATIONS.

2. AFTER OPENING WITH A FEW LIGHT PLEASANTRIES ABOUT CARDINAL MINDSZENTY NO LONGER LIVING IN EMBASSY, KADAR SAID HE FELT THAT RELATIONS WITH US WERE IMPROVING, BUT IMPROVING SLOWLY. (HE USED WORD SLOWLY TWICE). HE SAID WE HAD SETTLED SEVERAL ISSUES IN LAST FEW YEARS BUT THERE WERE OTHERS THAT STILL NEEDED WORKING ON. I REPLIED THAT MY ASSIGNMENT FROM PRESIDENT WAS TO FURTHER IMPROVE US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS AND THAT I KNEW HE TOO WOULD LIKE TO MOVE FORWARD WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

3. I OBSERVED I HAD CAREFULLY READ HIS SPEECH SUBSEQUENT TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC) SESSION AND REGARDED IT AS IMPORTANT. KADAR SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT I HAD TAKEN NOTE OF IT, BUT DID NOT EXPAND UPON SUBSTANCE. HE DID NOTE THAT HE HAD "DEFENDED" POPE FOR HIS DECISION

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 00851 100811Z

TO VACATE SEAT AT ESZTERGOM AND REPEATED THAT THOSE WHO

HAD ACCUSED POPE OF DOING SO UNDER HUNGARIAN PRESSURE
ENTIRELY MISUNDERSTOOD GOH CAPABILITIES IN SUCH MATTERS.

4. DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY, WHO ACTED AS INTERPRETER,
VOLUNTEERED AFTERWARDS THAT KADAR WAS VERY CIRCUMSPECT
IN WHAT HE SAID AND THAT WE SHOULD TAKE HIS COMMENTS
ABOUT PACE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS SERIOUSLY. HE ADDED
THAT AS A SUPERB POLITICIAN KADAR KNEW HOW TOHANDLE
HUNGARIAN SITUATION BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

5. IN APPEARANCE KADAR IS GRAY IN COLOR, ALMOST ASHEN,
SLIGHTLY FLESHY, AND SOMEWHAT AGING; HIS DRESS IS
RATHER UNDISTINGUISHED. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO SENSE
OF THAT IN TALKING WITH HIM. HE WAS LIVELY, JOVIAL
AND VERY MUCH ALERT.

6. KADAR SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AT RECEPTION
WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR PAVLOV AND THREE RANKING
SOVIET GENERALS IN HUNGARY, BUT CLEARLY ALSO WANTED
TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH KEY WESTERN AMBASSADORS.
HE WAS NOT STEERED TO ME BY NAGY OR AN AIDE BUT CAME
OVER ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE.

7. ASIDE FROM PRIME MINISTER FOCK, OTHER HUNGARIAN
OFFICIAL WHO APPEARED TO BE MOST ACTIVE AT RECEPTION
WAS NEMETH, WHO SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME
WITH SOVIETS AND OTHER HUNGARIANS. GEN. OLAH
(HUNGARIAN CHIEF OF STAFF) WAS CLEARLY MORE CENTER
OF MILITARY ATTENTION THAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE CZINEGE.
PEDERSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUDAPE00851
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740082-0222
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740453/aaaabvuk.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KADAR'S VIEWS ON US RELATIONS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, HU, (KADAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005